

PHYSICIANS SIT IN CONVENTION.

Diseases and Theories Discussed
at Harmony Hall.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR YEAR

Interesting Discussion on Leprosy—Dr. Russell Presents Resolutions—Le-prosy is Not Hereditary—May be Contracted by Inoculation, Etc.

The Medical Association of Hawaii entered upon the first day of its convention at Harmony Hall yesterday morning. There were present: Dr. John S. McGrew, president; Henry W. Howard, vice-president; R. P. Myers, secretary; Emerson, Smith, McGettigan, Andrews, Oliver, Alvarez, Russell, Raymond, Cooper and Ryder.

After invocation by the Rev. Alex. Mackintosh the secretary read the minutes of the previous meetings.

Dr. McGrew was expected to deliver an address as president of the association, but it had been his custom through life to put off everything until the last moment, and with the unfortunate death of Miss Field at his residence on Tuesday he found the preparation of an impromptu speech involved greater care than he had imagined. He would ask the indulgence of the members present.

Dr. McGrew said:

"Gentlemen of the Convention:—The Committee of Arrangements, to whom was assigned the duty of formulating a program for the entertainment of the members of the Hawaiian Medical Association, concluded their labors, and a program was sent to each and every physician on the islands. I hope that the gentlemen in attendance here today have brought contributions on subjects that have come to their notice in the course of their professional duties, that will be instructive to those present and of benefit to the public generally.

"Medicine of the present day presumes more than ever to regenerate itself, its object being the mission of peace, good will and love for the human race. It is arriving at the period of evolution in which it invades every other science, and is destined to have a definite code, which should be the breviary of its ministers for the good of mankind. Great scientific questions are being evolved by the profession, in all parts of the world. There is a gentleman here today who I understand is giving considerable attention to specialties and is making earnest investigations into the cause and treatment of leprosy.

"From the limited time he has had to work in, we may not expect much, but we hope to hear from him any way, and still there are others who are devoting their brain energies to this disease I understand. I hope so. I for one will say, as is said of an ancient dame whose cottage was close to the battlefield of Waterloo, and being somewhat deaf and hearing sound of the artillery when the famous pounding was hardest, thought she heard some one knocking at the door, and quietly called out, 'Come in.'

"Our Board of Health has done good work during the cholera epidemic, and are still active and energetic, making every provision for the prevention of epidemics in the future. It is possible that among the many generations of explorers to follow in this science, the problem of the cause and treatment of that terrible and most disgusting of all diseases, leprosy, may yet be solved, and to the world it matters not whether by empirical or scientific sources. After the labors of the association have been brought to a close on the 23d, there will be an opportunity given to those who wish to take a trip to Molokai.

"That visit, to those who can make it, will be of great value in pursuing investigations."

Secretary Myers read his report for the year and several resolutions which had been handed in. On the request of a member he also read the law governing practice of medicine in Honolulu, which is now before the Legislature.

As the reports were read and no action taken, Dr. Rodgers suggested that they be disposed of. Before any second could be made a request was handed in by Dr. Cooper, chairman of the Committee on Entertainment, for the names of those who would be present at the banquet proposed to be given at the Arlington tonight.

This led to considerable discussion as to the time the dinner should take place. Dr. McGrew asked to be excused, because he had to be present at Oahu College exercises. Dr. Emerson and others pleaded the same excuse, and someone suggested Friday. The trip to Molokai interfered with that, and the idea of a banquet was about to be abandoned when Dr. Rodgers expressed the opinion that without a good dinner it might be difficult to bring the members together next year.

Dr. Russell thought the society should be first, and that other matters should be sacrificed to science. The members should be present at the banquet, whether they wanted to or not, and "can't" should be eliminated.

Dr. McGrew saw the way matters were going and offered a substitute bill. He invited the members to join him at his house Friday noon, and he would see that they got a very decent lunch.

The invitation was accepted with thanks of the association. The manner in which physicians should be admitted to membership was discussed when the application of Dr. Mori, endorsed by Drs. Herbert and Ryder, was read. It was decided that according to the constitution the mere fact that physicians had diplomas

would not entitle them to membership. The application of Dr. Mori was referred to the committee to act as the constitution provides.

A long resolution conveying the thanks of the association to Rep. Robertson, formulated by Doctor Russell, was read by the secretary, and was laid on the table to be considered later. The doctor, in supporting his resolution, said the association decided, when the movement to tax physicians was started, that they would oppose the measure on the ground that it was a direct tax and an iniquitous one. It was a movement that was opposed by two persons outside the members of the medical profession—Rep. Robertson and the editor of the P. C. Advertiser—and he deemed it proper that the Representative receive the thanks of the association for his efforts.

Dr. Howard suggested that when the resolution was debated upon it would be well to allow physicians present, even though they were not members, to take part in the debate.

Dr. Myers, in response to a request, read the constitution of the association, and then some one asked that the code of ethics of American practice be read. Dr. Rodgers declined the honor, as it was too long; those who had signed knew what it was, and those



"It is not hereditary," said Vice President Myers.

who had not could read for themselves. It was longer than the Constitution of the United States, and though the effort required to read it would be greater than he cared to assume, he believed the infliction to the members would be greater.

It was decided to take it in sections, and Dr. Howard offered to sacrifice himself on the first relay, and Dr. Emerson took it up a half hour later, when Dr. Howard exhausted himself. The reading was finished at noon, and a recess was taken until 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the afternoon session were present Drs. Herbert, Stow, Wayson and Mori. In addition to those of the morning session.

In the absence of President McGrew, Vice-President Howard acted as President, and under order of business the secretary read the report of the Finance Committee. Dr. Herbert, from the Committee on Entertainment, said that arrangements had been made with Mr. Krouse for the banquet Thursday night. Understood that arrangements had been changed at the morning session, which placed the members of the committee in rather an awkward position. The matter was left in the hands of the committee, to be adjusted as they deem advisable.

The committee to whom was referred the applications of Drs. Mori, McGettigan and Raymond reported favorably and they were duly elected. The application of Dr. Stow was given to the committee for action and report.

The resolution of Dr. Russell was brought up for discussion. Dr. Wayson said he could see no reason why Rep. Robertson should be especially thanked for what was merely a duty. In defending the rights of the medical fraternity he did only what he believed was his duty as a legislator. He moved the indefinite postponement of the resolution. Dr. Day believed it was uncalculated for and he disliked to see the resolution going from this body. He disliked the phraseology of the resolution, particularly the "iniquitous." While it might apply in some places, it could not here, and with this feeling he could only second the motion of Dr. Wayson.

Dr. Russell said Dr. Day's objection was based principally on the word "iniquitous." He called attention to the fact that this same word was used in the drafting of resolutions a few weeks ago.

Drs. Emerson and Rodgers opposed it for the same general reasons given by previous speakers.

Dr. Herbert saw no reason for it, and believed the Representative would object to being thanked for performing his duty.

Action on the resolution was indefinitely postponed. Another resolution from Dr. Russell, independent of any committee and directed to the editor of the P. C. Advertiser for his efforts in defeating the graduated income tax, was, on motion of Dr. Wayson, seconded by Dr. Day, consigned to the waste basket.

Dr. Russell deplored the lack of interest and activity of the members in taking up the question of taxation. It looked now as though the members were afraid.

Dr. Emerson differed with the previous speaker, inasmuch as the society was organized for scientific purposes rather than framing complimentary resolutions or the discussion of systems of taxation by the Government.

Dr. Russell left the hall as soon as the resolutions were floor, and when the committee on nominations was asked to report he, as chairman, was missed and he had carried away the report of the committee.

Dr. Cooper read from memory the list as formulated: President, J. S. McGrew; vice president, R. P. Myers; secretary, C. F. Rodgers; executive committee, Dr. Weddick of Kauai and Dr. Stow of Hawaii.

Dr. Rodgers declined to accept office, as he is not a practitioner. The report, however, was read and accepted.

Dr. Emerson wanted to know if the society was bound to a nominating committee. He thought that in future the society as a whole should be constituted a nominating committee.

On motion of Dr. Day the office of secretary was assigned to Dr. Alvarez. Dr. Howard said that it was understood by the executive committee that each member of the society would be expected to pay an assessment of \$5. The treasury is empty, and expenses of printing, hall rent, etc., amounted to something. Motion carried. The same speaker suggested that a treasurer be appointed.

On motion of Dr. Emerson the secretary was requested to perform the duties of treasurer.

On motion of Dr. Emerson the convention took a recess until 8 p. m., in order that the members might attend the funeral of Kate Field.

Following is a list of the members so far enrolled:

J. S. McGrew, 1847, Ohio Medical College.

Robert Pooler Myers, 1860, Savannah Medical College.

Louis Fernandez Alvarez, 1887, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco.

Richard Oliver, 1861, St. Bartholomew Hospital, London, England.

N. Russell, 1877, University of St. Vladimir, Russia.

Chas. T. Rodgers, 1873, Medical Department New York University.

James Harvey Raymond, 1893, Rush Medical College, Chicago.

Robert J. McGettigan, 1891, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco.

Nathaniel B. Emerson, 1869, College of Physicians, New York.

C. Clifford Ryder, 1892, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco.

George Pierce Andrews, 1862, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.

Henry W. Howard, 1890, Rush Medical College, Chicago.

J. T. Wayson, 1891, Medical Department U. C.

Francis Root Day, 1894, Rush Medical College, Chicago.

George Herbert, 1883, Royal College of Surgery, London; College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

W. Mori, 1891, Cooper Medical College, San Francisco.

EVENING SESSION.

Present—Drs. J. S. McGrew, president, McGettigan, Oliver, Cooper, Emerson, Rodgers, Myers and Alvarez.

Dr. Myers read a compilation of cases of leprosy. The paper was not original. Dr. Myers stated that he had taken the subject matter of his paper from the New York Medical Journal. The author repudiated the statement that leprosy is contagious. It was reported that 500 cases existed in New York, and this was refuted. The author said there might be two or three cases there, but no bad results could follow.

On motion of Dr. Emerson the paper was laid on file to be used if found advisable.

Dr. Alvarez said that in Norway the belief is that leprosy is contagious. This is the view of the great Hansen. This authority says leprosy is not hereditary and cannot be communicated without leprosy bacilli. Dr. Alvarez never saw a child under three and a half years of age suffering from the disease. Here in Hawaii we have leprosy spreading among the foreigners. Out of 1,200 American men, five were on Molokai; out of 900 British subjects there were also five, so that it will not be overdrawing it to say that one per cent. of the American and British population are lepers. If leprosy was to break out in London there would be a good sized lazaretto there. I never saw but one, but there are lepers in the Eastern States appearing frequently at the clinics, but in almost every instance the patients came from these islands. The foreigners here who contract the disease go away; if they did not there would be more sent to Molokai.

Dr. Oliver wanted to know what the speaker meant by contagion. Dr. Alvarez related the case of an Irishman who went to Norway and after being away several years returned and lived and slept with his brother for two years. Then the leper died and his brother wore the clothes of the leper. He soon developed leprosy and the supposition was that he contracted the disease.

Dr. Oliver gave a very interesting talk on the subject, and gave it as his opinion that the disease is contagious by inoculation.

Dr. Emerson stated that he had studied the disease from every source. He thought leprosy was contracted through kissing more than every other way. It is a strange fact that leprosy predominates in women over men at the ratio of five to three.

Dr. Alvarez said in his calculations he had left women out altogether, and for good reasons. He knew of very few cases where virtuous women contracted leprosy. It was on the same basis that fewer women were drowned at sea than men, for the reason that they do not go to sea. Virtuous women do not go where leprosy exists.

Dr. Emerson asked Dr. Alvarez if the leprosy bacilli could be cultivated. This was answered in the negative.

Dr. McGrew—I have a case to state which happened in either 1878 or '79. It was when they were gathering up patients to take to Molokai. Among the number was an old native who had developed leprosy. His son, who was a stout, little young man, had worked for me about two years. Before leaving for Molokai the old man left as a present for his son a fancy red blanket. Six or seven months after that the son showed signs of leprosy, and if he is not dead he is on Molokai now. The wife has never showed any signs of leprosy, and

is now in the neighborhood of her old home. The young man said that he had not slept in his parent's house and had in no way come into contact with him. Gentlemen, you can study over the matter and decide for yourselves the cause of the young man's contracting leprosy. Certainly you cannot place it to heredity, for the father had only contracted the disease two years previous to the first signs of development in the young man.

Dr. Rodgers—David Dayton, who has had opportunity to notice leprosy people, told me that abundant cases could be cited to prove or disprove anything that might be said on the subject.

A CLEAN CUT INDIVIDUAL OPINION, BOLDLY EXPRESSED.

It is for this reason that an assertion like the following sticks up above the dead level of our stupid talk, and becomes noticeable: "When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself, it was because something had gone out of my blood."

There! that is a statement with the seeds of an idea in it. Suppose we follow it up by quoting the rest of the letter which contains it.

In December, 1890, says the writer, "I fell into a poor state of health. I was tired, languid, and weary without any apparent cause. My appetite left me, and all food, even the lightest and simplest kinds, caused me great pain in the chest and stomach. When I saw how pale I had grown I said to myself it was because something had gone out of my blood."

"Then my sleep was broken, and night after night I scarcely closed my eyes. It wasn't long before I became so weak and dejected that I took no interest in things around me. I was so nervous that common sounds annoyed and worried me; even the noise made by my own children in their talk and at their play."

"There was a disgusting taste in my mouth; it made me sick, and often gave me a shivering sensation all over. When I saw others eating and enjoying their meals I felt as though it were a strange thing; in a way I wondered how they could do it. For myself I could eat hardly anything. Food went against me, and I turned away from it, as one turns from sights or smells that are offensive. And yet I knew, what everyone knows, that without sufficient food the body languishes and weakens. And such was the case with me as month after month went by."

"During all this time, so full of pain and discouragement, I was attended by a doctor who did what he could to relieve me, but without success. I do not say he did not understand my complaint; for may he not have understood it without having the means of curing it?"

The answer to the lady's question is: Yes, easily enough. All intelligent, studious doctors "understand" consumption, cholera, cancer, etc., without (as yet) having the means of curing them. There is usually a wide gap between the discovery of a want and the way to supply it.

"I will now," continues the letter, "tell you how I came to be cured. In April, 1891, I read in a small book or pamphlet about Mother Seigel's Syrup. The book said the Syrup was a certain remedy for all diseases of the stomach, indigestion in every form, and dyspepsia; and it also said that most of the complaints we suffer from are caused by that. On looking over the symptoms described in the book, and comparing them with my own, I saw plainly that my ailment was dyspepsia."

"We sent immediately for a bottle of this medicine, and after taking it a few days I began to feel better. In a very short time, by keeping on with the Syrup according to the directions, I could eat without pain or distress, and digest my food. I also slept soundly and naturally. Then my strength came back and with it the color to my face. In short, after a few weeks use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, I was hearty and strong as ever. And I should be indeed ungrateful if I were not willing that others should have the benefit of my experience. You are therefore free to print my letter if you think it will be useful. (Signed) (Mrs.) M. Turan, Marton, Lincoln, April 24, 1895."

I simply desire to say to Mrs. Turan that her idea about the blood is a perfectly correct one. All our food (the digestible part of it) is turned into blood, and in that shape it feeds the entire body. When the blood gets thin and poor (lacking in nourishment), we lose flesh and grow feeble and pale. And the cause of the blood getting thin and poor is indigestion, or dyspepsia. How easy this is to understand when once you get hold of the right end of it. Mother Seigel's Syrup has the peculiar power to correct what is wrong about the digestion, and thus enables the digestive machinery to make good rich blood, which is life, health and beauty.

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